September 23, 1968

Dr. Richard Bernabei
Department of Classics
Queens University
Kingston, Ontario

Dear Doctor Bernabei:

Please allow me to thank you for your letter of September 17, 1968.

The gun I used was chronographed by both the Remington Arms Company and the Ordnance Department of the U.S. Army. Authority to do this, at the Independence Arsenal, was obtained from the Pentagon in Washington, I suspect they will explode when they learn what I do with the results. The chronographs used were of the most recent, advanced, complex, and sophisticated in existence. This "sawed-off" weapon was subsequently fired at a farm a few miles out of town where the appropriate anatomical specimens could be shot and the bullets recovered in mattresses. This gun has subsequently been sold because I do not need it any more. Now I am waiting for a single shot at the appropriate anatomical specimen with an authentic gun in which the speed of the bullet will not be of great importance.

At present I have three Carcano model 91/38 guns with authentic scopes attached but only bore sighted. These guns have not been chronographed and I do not want to go back to Remington or the Army to do it. However, there is the firm of B.E. Hodgdon in Mission, Kansas who will do it for about $3.00 per round. Their instrument is an elementary "police type" obtainable from the Oehler Research Company of Austin Texas at about $400-%500.00**.

If you can make appropriate arrangements with the Canadian and American authorities for sending and return I should be very happy to send one of these guns with authentic ammunition to you for a month or so. If you should want the gun chronographed I should

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be very happy for the Hodgdon company to do it for you with ammunition lot 6002 the same lot the army conducted their tests with and as alleged to have been used by Mr. Oswald.

I do not know where to get these guns. I never see them advertised any more and correspondence with all former sources and sources in Italy have failed. Italian Officers at the War College in Leavenworth, Kansas cannot help. If you come across any please let me know.

Sincerely,

John Nichols

JN:mc
cc: Mr. Harold Weisberg